PANAMERICAN SOCIETY for PIGMENT CELL RESEARCH

PASPCR Newsletter

Volume 5 Number 4 **December,1997**

Introduction . . . **by the Publications Committee**

The **PASPCR** ***Newsletter*** is published quarterly and is intended to serve as a means of communication for the members of our Society. As such, we invite our membership to actively contribute to it; help us to update the Job Listings, Calendar of Events, Meeting Reports, and other items of general membership interest. If you attend a scientific meeting at which you heard about work which you think will be of interest to the membership of the **PASPCR**, please write a few paragraphs summarizing what was presented and share it with us. If you should have a change of affiliation or address, we'd like to know that, too. This is **your** ***Newsletter***, and we depend upon you to help us make sure it best serves the Society's needs. Contributions and comments can be sent to Vince Hearing, preferably by Email to hearingv@nih.gov.

The **PASPCR** ***Web page*** is the major, up-to-date source of current information for the PASPCR membership. The URL address for the home page is: **http://lenti.med.umn.edu/paspcr**. The PASPCR site contains information on the goals, ByLaws and Rules of the Society, future meetings, past issues of the **PASPCR** ***Newsletter*** as well as links to other related sites including the InterPig DataBase, the International Pigment Cell Conference in Nagoya, and the International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies (IFPCS) and the regional Pigment Cell Societies from Europe and Japan. In addition, the PASPCR membership directory is available on that page; please notify us if you wish any or all of your information to be deleted or modified on that site.

Please check out the **PASPCR** ***Web page*** and send any comments and/or suggestions to the PASPCR WebMaster, Bill Oetting at **bill@lenti.med.umn.edu** or to Vince Hearing at **hearingv@nih.gov**.

IN THIS ISSUE . . . . .

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Calendar of Events :

Dec 13 - 17, 1997 American Society for Cell Biology Annual Meeting, to be held in Washington DC (contact: FASEB, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814, USA; FAX: +1 301/530-7014)

May 7 – 10, 1998 International Investigative Dermatology Meeting, to be held in Cologne, Germany (contact: Dr. Peter van de Kerhof, Dept of Dermatology, University Hospital Nijmegen, PO Box 9101, 6500 HB Nijmegen, The Netherlands; FAX: +31 24 354-1184)

May 17 – 21, 1998 American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Annual Meeting, to be held in Washington DC (contact: FASEB, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814, USA; FAX: +1 301/530-7014)

Aug 15 - 18, 1998 VIIIth PASPCR Annual Meeting, to be held in Snowmass, CO (contact: Dr. David Norris, Dermatology Dept, Univ of Colorado Medical Center, Denver, CO 80262 USA; FAX: +1 303/372-1159)

Sept, 1998 8th ESPCR Annual Meeting, to be held in Prague, Czech Republic (contact: Dr. Jan Borovansky, Department of Biochemistry, Charles University, 1st Faculty of Medicine, U nemocnice 5, 128 53 Prague 2 Czech Republic; FAX: + 42 2-2491-5449)

Oct 30 - Nov 3, 1999 XVIIth International Pigment Cell Conference, to be held in Nagoya, Japan (contact: Dr. Shosuke Ito, Fujita Health University School of Health Sciences, Toyoake, Aichi 470-11, Japan; Phone: +81-562-93-2595; Fax: +81-562-93-4595; Email: sito@fujita-hu.ac.jp)

Welcome to New Members

by James J Nordlund

We welcome the following new members to the **PASPCR** . . .

Ling Hou **Rangaprasad Sarangarajan** **Miri Seiberg**

If anyone is interested in joining our Society or wishes to sponsor a member, application forms can be obtained from Dr. James J. Nordlund at the PASPCR Secretary/Treasurer's office.

Corporate Sponsors

by James J Nordlund

The PASPCR would like to acknowledge and thank our Corporate Sponsors; the list below reflects contributions over the past 2 years. Financial gifts from these sponsors have allowed our Society to increase benefits to the membership far out of proportion to the actual dues collected from members. Monies contributed by these sponsors have been used over the years to support various PASPCR functions including our Young Investigator Award program, meeting travel stipends, annual meeting expenses and this Newsletter.

GOLD Corporate Patrons	*SILVER Corporate Patrons*	*Corporate Patrons*
ICN Pharmaceuticals, Inc	Avon Products, Inc	Galderma Laboratories, Inc
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1997 IFPCS Travel Awards

by James J Nordlund

Congratulations to David Parichy whose application to visit the laboratory of Dr. Nüsslein-Volhard in Tübingen, Germany was selected as the recipient of the 1997 **IFPCS Travel Award**. Dr. Parichy will be investigating the evolutionary diversification of adult pigment patterns among danio fishes. There were two competing applications submitted that were also outstanding and the PASPCR Council has awarded each of those $2,500 for the purposes proposed. Those **PASPCR Travel Awards** were made to Lynn Lamoreux to visit the laboratories of several Japanese pigment cell biologists to establish collaborations to study murine pigmentation (especially white-spotting) mutants and to Nels Granholm to visit the laboratory of Dr. Maureen Dawson at the Manchester Metropolitan University in England to conduct research on the lethal yellow allele.

PASPCR Council Nominations

by James J Nordlund

The following names have been put on the ballot for 3 year Council terms to begin in 1998; please remember that additional names can be added to the ballot by petition. If you wish to submit a name by petition ballot, you will need to obtain the signatures of 5 active PASPCR members and submit that to the Secretary/Treasurer's office by December 31st, 1997 along with a statement from the candidate that he/she is willing to run for this office. Current nominees are :

Jean Bolognia **Bryan Fuller** **Estela Medrano**
Randall Morrison **William Pavan** **Giselle Thibaudeau**

Call for Applications – 1998 IFPCS Travel Awards

by James J Nordlund

The deadline for 1998 applications will be May 1st, 1998 and decisions will be announced by the end of the month. Again, applications will be competitive and can be up to 1 page in length and should note the laboratory to be visited, the project or collaboration to be performed, estimate the expenses involved (Travel Stipends can be for up to $3,000) and the time frame of the proposed travel. Applications should be submitted to the office of Dr. James J. Nordlund, Secretary-Treasurer of the PASPCR.

IPCC Proceedings

A limited number of bound volumes featuring the published Proceedings of the ***1996 International Pigment Cell Conference*** held in Anaheim last October will be available for an outstanding price (~$45-50 each). Anyone who is interested in obtaining one of these volumes should immediately contact Dr. Frank Meyskens to place an order, at: Dr. Frank L Meyskens, Director, UCI Clinical Cancer Center, Division of Hematology/Oncology, University of California Irvine Medical Center, 101 The City Drive, Orange, CA 92668 USA; Tel: +1 (714) 456-5039; Email: flmeyske@uci.edu

Members in the News

Nels Granholm, received a 1997 PASPCR Travel Stipend; he will visit the laboratory of Dr. Maureen Dawson at the Manchester Metropolitan University in England to conduct research on the lethal yellow allele using immunological protocols.

Lynn Lamoreux, received a 1997 PASPCR Travel Stipend; she will travel to Japan to visit the laboratories of several Japanese pigment cell biologists to establish collaborations to study murine pigmentation (especially white-spotting) mutants useful for the study of mammalian development.

Seth Orlow, was a keynote lecturer at the recent ESPCR meeting in Bordeaux, France; the title of his lecture was "Of Mice and Men: The Comparative Genetics of Oculocutaneous Pigmentation"

David Parichy, received the 1997 IFPCS Travel Stipend; he will travel to Dr. Nüsslein-Volhard's laboratory in Tübingen, Germany to investigate the evolutionary diversification of adult pigment patterns among danio fishes.

Pigment Cell Research Wants YOU!

by James J Nordlund

Hope that the stock markets don't crash like the cost of our pigment journal; your subscription to ***Pigment Cell Research*** will be about 45% less than in previous years. The list subscription price is over $200 but most were getting it at discount for about $160. Munskgaard agreed to revise its pricing schedule for the journal ***Pigment Cell Research*** for Society members only. For an annual fee of $95 you can now have your own copy of ***Pigment Cell Research***, our official journal. We need to get most of the members subscribing to keep this journal flourishing. An application for the journal will be included with your dues statement for 1998.

SUPPORT YOUR JOURNAL AND SOCIETY. SUBSCRIBE TO THE JOURNAL WHEN YOU RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO PASPCR.

Invitation to the XVIIth IPCC (International Pigment Cell Conference) by Shosuke Ito

Invitation to the XVIIth International Pigment Cell Conference Nagoya Congress Center
Nagoya, Japan October 30 - November 3, 1999

Dear Colleague:

After the inauguration of the International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies (IFPCS) in Kobe in 1990, the International Pigment Cell Conferences (IPCC) rotate among the European, American, and Asian continents, hosted by one of the three regional societies: the ESPCR, the JSPCR, and the PASPCR. The 15th IPCC was thus held in London in 1993, chaired by Professor Patrick A. Riley, and the 16th IPCC was recently held in Anaheim, California, chaired by Professor Frank L. Meyskens, Jr.

It is our great honor and real pleasure to inform you that the next 17th IPCC will be held in Nagoya, Japan in 1999, co-organized by the IFPCS and the JSPCR. We heartily hope that pigment cell biologists and clinicians will join together in Nagoya in October 1999 to present their latest achievements in the exciting world of pigment cell research. Your participation will be most important for the scientific success of this meeting.

The city of Nagoya, the 4th largest in Japan, enjoys a rich history of traditional culture and a reputation for world-renowned high-tech industries. Nagoya is located at the center of Japan and is easy to access: the Nagoya International Airport is directly connected with 30 cities around the world. The conference site, the Nagoya Congress Center, is newly built and has ample spaces for the participants to discuss and exchange ideas, which we believe will certainly bring about fruitful collaborations.

We will follow the good tradition of the IFPCS leadership in directing scientific programs to unify the three regional societies. Within such a framework, we wish to place special emphasis on poster presentations. We hope to provide a certain number of travel grants for young investigators to attend this meeting. In order to be eligible for such a grant, an applicant has to be a member of one of the three regional societies for at least one year prior to the meeting. We are also planning banquet and social activities in such a way to make your visit to Nagoya most enjoyable and memorable. It will be our great privilege to welcome you and your colleagues to Nagoya in 1999.

Shosuke Ito, Ph.D. — *Chair*, IPCC Nogoya
Kazumasa Wakamatsu, Ph.D. — *Secretary-General*, IPCC Nagoya

For further information please contact us at: Fujita Health University School of Health Sciences, Toyoake, Aichi 470-11, Japan; *Phone*: +81-562-93-2595; *Fax:* +81-562-93-4595; *Email*: sito@fujita-hu.ac.jp

Positions - Wanted and Available :

Postdoctoral Position - position with the pigmentation team at the J&J Skin Research Center. The Skin Research Center is located in Skillman, NJ, and is responsible for research leading to new prescription drugs and consumer skin products. Current research involves the understanding of keratinocyte-melanocyte interactions and their regulatory role in melanogenesis. A novel, receptor-mediated pathway that affects melanogenesis has been identified, which is dependent on keratinocyte-melanocyte contact. We are looking for a molecular and cellular biologist to investigate this pathway. The candidate will be challenged to develop model systems, to study molecules involved in the regulation of melanogenesis, and to investigate keratinocyte-melanocyte interactions and their role in pigmentation. The position requires a PhD in biological science, preferably in molecular and cellular biology. Skills in the area of skin biology and pigmentation are preferred, but not required. If you, or someone you know, might be interested this position, please discuss this opportunity with them. Please contact Dr. Miri Seiberg for additional details of the position at: Johnson & Johnson, 199 Grandview Road, Skillman, NJ 08558-9418; Phone: 908-874-2325; Fax 908-874-2323; Email: MSEIBER@CPIUS.JNJ.COM. J&J provides a competitive salary and comprehensive benefits. We are an equal opportunity employer and support diversity in the workplace. This program provides basic and industrial research experience to the individual, whether they plan to pursue academic or industrial careers.

Postdoctoral Position - Ph.D. in molecular biology, biophysics, genetics or biochemistry. Position available to conduct research on molecular mechanisms of cellular response to oxidative stress in human melanocytes and melanoma cells and its regulation for preventive and therapeutic indications.

Contact Dr. Frank L. Meyskens Jr., Director, University of California-Irvine, Chao Family Clinical Cancer Research Center, 101 The City Drive, Orange, CA 92668, USA. Fax (714) 456-5039 Email flmeyske@uci.edu

Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Positions - available for molecular biologists in the areas of drug discovery and metabolism research. Requires experience in gene cloning, DNA sequencing, recombinant protein expression and cell culture methods. Prior experience in dermatology research is desirable. Southern Research Institute is a diversified research and development organization. Our Life Sciences Division provides comprehensive preclinical drug development and testing capabilities as well as basic research in drug design and synthesis, pharmaceutical formulations, toxicology, virology, microbiology, and pharmacology. To apply, send resume or curriculum vitae to: Southern Research Institute, Attention: Suzann Allen, Human Resources, Department 118, P.O. Box 55305, Birmingham, AL, 35255-5305.

Faculty Position - Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Cutaneous Biology Research Center. The Cutaneous Biology Research Center (CBRC) seeks a molecular, cellular or developmental biologist to establish a program in fundamental research relevant to skin pigmentation. Areas of research can include but are not limited to pigment synthesis and transfer in melanocytes, genetics of mouse coat color and development/migration of neural crest cells. Applicants must have a Ph.D. and/or M.D. degree and relevant postdoctoral experience. Only applicants with a strong research record and the potential to develop extramurally supported research programs will be considered. Individuals with a demonstrated ability to develop imaginative approaches to important biological questions are particularly encouraged to apply. Rank/salary/start-up funds and space are negotiable depending on experience and qualifications. The CBRC occupies 45,000 square feet of fully equipped laboratory space in a new multidisciplinary research facility. Interested individuals should send curriculum vitae, reprints, a statement of research and future directions, along with the names, addresses and telephone numbers of three references to: Dr. Paul F. Goetinck, Chair, Faculty Search Committee, Cutaneous Biology Research Center, Massachusetts General Hospital - East, Building 149, 13th Street, Charlestown, MA 02129

INTERPIG DataBase

by Vincent Hearing

The INTERPIG database is on the InterNet! You can now access the InterPig DataBase at the following address: **http://lenti.med.umn.edu/paspcr/interpig.html**. Please note that as of this time, I estimate that less than 5% of the various IFPCS members have contributed entries. Think of how useful and complete this list would be if everyone took the time to supply their own information. Please take a moment to fill out the database data entry form (either online through the Web page or via Email) and send it back to Dr. Hearing. Please contact Vince Hearing or Bill Oetting if you need more information about these mechanisms of submission.

Check out the New Table on Pigment Genes & Associated Diseases ! ! !

Bibliography :

The Bibliography published in this issue covers the period August, 1997 through October, 1997. If you notice a paper that was not detected by this search that should be included, please send it to us and we will include it in the next issue. We have attempted to highlight any publications which include a member of the PASPCR with a star (*sorry if we missed you but let us know and you'll get a free marked repeat in the next issue*).

MELANINS, MELANOGENS & MELANOGENESIS

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International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies

ESPCR
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A Letter from the President -

What are the function(s) of the IFPCS, or perhaps more accurately put, are there any function(s) of the IFPCS? The answers can be found on the IFPCS Web page (**http://lenti.med.umn.edu/paspcr/ifpcs.html**), but for those who prefer the old fashioned way, please read on . . .

The IFPCS was established with several main goals in mind :

1. To foster and enhance research on pigment cells and pigmentation among the regional Societies.
2. To foster scientific collaboration, cooperation and communication among the regional Societies.
3. To organize a tri-annual international meeting, to honor outstanding contributions in the field by awarding the Myron Gordon award at that meeting, and to select a scientist who has made recent and significant advances in the field to present the Seiji lecture.
4. To provide consultation and information regarding all aspects of pigmentation and related topics.
5. To encourage the dissemination of knowledge related to pigment cells by the establishment, sponsorship and support for the publication of books, bulletins, newsletters, journals, reports or other means.

How are we doing with respect to these goals? Well yes, I would like your feedback, but to be honest, I have my own opinions on each of the above topics and would like to share them with you.

Historically we have actually worked to meet these goals somewhat in reverse order. Goals #4 and #5 were achieved by establishing an official IFPCS-sponsored journal, ***Pigment Cell Research***, about 10 years ago. The journal has grown steadily but is in need of your renewed support. Increasing publication costs are squeezing its production costs and it is essential, if we wish to keep our journal, that we all contribute to its health and vitality by: (1) subscribing to it, and (2) by submitting papers to it for publication. Our Societies have made a strong commitment to support our journal and the hard work has already been done; if we don't renew our efforts now to support it financially and scientifically, we most probably will lose it within the next several years. I would urge each of you to make sure your research group and/or library subscribes to the journal, that you submit papers to it and that you cite its pertinent references where applicable in your publications. A quick and unofficial look at current statistics in these areas is quite revealing. Support of the journal with respect to submitted manuscripts is similar among the regional Societies: Of papers published in ***Pigment Cell***

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Research in 1996 and 1997, 27% originated from members of the ESPCR, 29% were from the JSPCR and 31% were from the PASPCR; the remaining 13% of papers published were from nonmembers. Thus there is comparable support of the journal from the regional Societies and this is great. On the other hand, distribution of subscriptions by Society is not so equitable: there were 33 member subscriptions from the ESPCR, 166 from the JSPCR and 43 from the PASPCR. Since the membership base is comparable among the three regional Societies, we obviously need to stimulate our ESPCR and PASPCR members to subscribe to our journal, not only to make its support more equitable, but to improve its circulation and usefulness. I would urge each of you to take a moment to assess whether your laboratory and/or library is receiving the journal and if not, to correct that for 1998. Having a specialty journal is a tremendous synergistic resource for our Societies and we should all commit to working to preserve it.

Goal #3 is probably the most obvious and publicly visible effort of the IFPCS; the social and scientific success of the ***International Pigment Cell Conferences*** (IPCC) has grown with each meeting, and each IPCC seems to be more exciting and stimulating than the last. Prof. Ito, chair of the next IPCC, and his Organizing and Scientific Committees have already designed the outlines of our next IPCC which will be held in Nagoya, Japan in 1999. I would invite each of you, not only to attend the meeting, but to watch its development over the next 2 years by tuning in at regular intervals to the IPCC Website (**http://lenti.med.umn.edu/paspcr/17ipcc.html**). That site already has been stocked with useful information about the development, format, social and scientific program of the Nagoya IPCC.

Goals #2 and #1 have been the most recent emphasis of the IFPCS. The ***Special Expert Groups*** are now going full speed ahead; check out their activities from their home pages on the Web (**http://lenti.med.umn.edu/paspcr/experts.html**) and sign up to be on one or more of them. Those groups are not only promoting active research and collaborations within their own specialties, but will provide input into the design and scientific program of the next IPCC. We now have Expert Groups in the subdisciplines of: **Biology of Melanoma**, **Developmental Biology**, **Genetics of Pigmentation**, **Hypo / Hyper-Pigmentation**, **Ocular / Extracutaneous Albinism**, and **Vitiligo**

The IFPCS has established a ***Scholars Travel Stipend*** program to promote travel aimed at establishing international collaborations. I would urge any of you who have thought of travelling to another lab to learn a new technique or to establish a collaboration, but haven't had the resources to do so, to apply for one of these Travel Stipends. Conversely, if you want someone to visit your lab for the same reasons, encourage them to apply. The level of financial support (i.e. $3,000) should be sufficient to cover expenses for 1 – 3 months of travel. Each regional Society has 3 of these grants to award prior to the Nagoya IPCC and one such application has already been funded. You can check on the details of this program, review the names of awardees and the scopes of their projects, and acknowledge our magnanimous corporate donors, at the relevant Web site (**http://lenti.med.umn.edu/paspcr/travel.html**). I would like to express my thanks to the following companies for their financial support of this program and hope that other companies will join their ranks: **Beiersdorf AG**, **Clairol Inc.**, **Nikko Chemicals**, **Procter & Gamble Co.**, **Shiseido**, **Taisho Pharmaceutical Co.**, and **Unilever Research**.

Finally, the IFPCS Council has just agreed to distribute the Newsletters and Bulletins from each regional Society to members of the other regional Societies to further facilitate exchange of information.

In sum, the IFPCS is healthy, interactive and functioning well. Memberships in our constituent regional Societies have been increasing steadily, and there has been a tremendous influx of fresh faces into the Offices and Councils, not only of those Societies, but into the IFPCS itself. The study of pigmentation is now in the forefront of scientific research in a variety of disciplines, and we are all in an advantageous position to further our own research and that of our colleagues. I would like to thank all of you for your confidence and support and particularly to thank each of the IFPCS Council Members who have all worked extremely hard to achieve the progress listed above. I'll look forward to seeing you in Nagoya.

Vince Hearing

IFPCS President